

Mummy Dearest (National Finalist)

By Michael Nelson

Bubbly is the champagne
Smooth is the vodka
Bubbly and smooth is mummy dearest
When she stumbles through the door
I'm not disturbed by it anymore
I'm disappointed
Swelling and thriving
Is the anger inside

The two dogs fight
Two blazing movements
My brother is a man lover
Cornered by his father
Threats and words
Not a hand on the flesh
But the vile act is played in their mind
Like a movie at a drive in theater.

I am a witness at the trial
But I am also the judge
Take a bullet for the wounded
Stand between the two armies
And drown
In the hate
You shout
To have them hear
They do not listen
But you have made the difference with your voice

Silence
All is not well
All is dead
The rose
Smooth
The dew bubbly
Smooth and bubbly is mummy dearest
As she stumbles through the door

How Youth Violence Has Affected My Life

By Cody Wright

Youth violence has not affected my life very much because we live in a small town. There is still some violence happening in our school like bullying and fighting but there are no shootings like Columbine and Virginia tech. I am glad to live in a small town where there is barely any youth violence. Bullying can still hurt a lot. A few years ago I was accused of bullying cause I'm bigger so they thought I was because I could. I was not bullying even though they said I was. So I have my own experience about violence and how it affects people and their lives. In our town everyone knows each other so it's better to get along with each other because why be mean to each other when it's all we have. It also hurts not only the people but the community. So I think we should treat others as we would like to be treated. I also think we should respect people's property.

I think most of the youth violence is in our school. Even though shootings and fights are in schools doesn't mean that's all the violence. There is still bullying even though it's not on the news does not mean it is not there. The main cause of youth violence is that people don't respect themselves so they disrespect others to make themselves feel better even though it does not make them feel better they still try it. They try to bring some one else down because there down and some of these kids parents don't take responsibility for their kids. If some one is acting different or causing more trouble this may be a sign of something dangerous but don't don't think some one is violent because the way they look. They could be as nice as you are. The main reason for shootings and other things is because kids pick on them and they pushed their limits. When you make fun and fun and fun it makes them like a time bomb-they could explode any minute. Soap is a great term to use S: respect yourself O: respect others A: respect authority P: respect property. If you are being bullied tell a friend or an adult you can trust. Some times people just ignore the bullying because they don't think they should get involved in their business but the best thing to do is tell the person who is bullying them to stop. Try to stick up for them and think if it was you in their shoes. I think to help stop violence we should try to get people to join a group like FCCLA. If you get in to a group like this you make new friends. It also helps the community. That is why youth violence has affected my life and opinions.

How violence affected my life.

By Ryan Emmert

The definition of violence is the exertion of physical force so as to injure or abuse. More frequently the word describes forceful human destruction of property or injury to person usually intentional, and forceful verbal and emotional abuse that harms others.

Violence has affected my life in many ways. Though violence may not be as noticeable in smaller towns such as Reed Point, I am from a larger city and violence there has made it so I am unable to go anywhere by myself. I don't feel comfortable going to a public place, even a youth hangout such as a skateboard park, to meet new friends or just to be with my current friends without fear that one might be carrying a gun or just want to start a fight.

There are many causes of violence in rural areas as well as larger cities and even in America. America's violence is caused by larger issues, such as war and terrorist attacks while the smaller area's violence is caused by drugs and alcohol. These issues are not as large but they are just as important. In the rural areas and cities there are kids and adults alike that open their mouth and try to start fights just for their own pleasure. In the larger areas we have gangs that think they rule everyone and use violence to try to prove that.

Youth violence is not something that can be fixed overnight or not just by one person but it has to start with one person and that is where I come in. I can take a stand and not be afraid to tell someone something is happening that needs to stop. I could organize a program for after school to keep kids off the streets and provide a safe place to be. I could also ask people that have experience with kids on drugs to speak to others and print brochures to pass around with phone numbers for drug help lines. But most importantly I can start by not causing violence myself.

How Youth Violence Has Affected My Life

By Ian Hamilton

All my life I have been in small towns and haven't been directly affected by youth violence it's only affected me indirectly. I moved from a town in Massachusetts 30 miles from Boston but it was still a small town, I did see violence but just not as much. Violence is still a major problem I am just lucky enough to be away from all the youth violence.

I think the main reasons for youth violence are easily seen people, that just try to hide it and cover it up. One of the reasons is such a common saying, but it's mostly the parents fault. If the parents are always mad when the kids are young the kids are going to try to be like their parents making them mad. Alcohol also makes people violent. When you are drunk you have no clue what you are doing and you'll do things you wouldn't do and one thing might be violence.

Through my life I've seen my friends get in fights and they haven't been so badly beat up but on the other hand, I've seen some people that have been really hurt. I have never been in a fight back at my old school and I am thankful for being in a good community all y life. In the little town I live in, nothing ever happens I'm grateful for it. I am just so happy that all those things are just in other places. If people would just be happy all the time and then nothing bad would happen, everyone would do good in school because when people are being pressured they can't work as well and that causes their grades to go down. Without the violence people could pursue all of their dreams and everything would be OK. No one would want to commit suicide because people wouldn't feel like their life was worthless. They would think how great they are and always do well. When people commit suicide they're not only killing themselves but hurting everyone around them who know them and live and love them. It will hurt everyone and they could make others kill themselves too because they lost someone they loved.

If you have a friend and they're being bullied you should tell an adult you know will tell the right people. If they tell the person's parents and they're bad parents all the will say is "Bad, go to your room". Then nothing will happen and they will keep doing it. If you tell someone you know well they will tell the principal or another adult. If it gets really bad you should call the cops (if you and the adults can't handle it). The cops should be the last resort though it's better to go with an adult you know.

Violence isn't just in school its online. Someone once told me that this one girl was talking to a guy on the internet and they started going out and they really liked each other. Then one day the guy cussed her out and dumped her. The next day they found her self hanging from her closet on a belt. That shows you never make fun of anyone online or offline.

I don't know why people do the things they do and probably never will. We can all try to help everyone one step at a time to lead a better life.

Violence and Me

By Nathan Booth

Violence has not affected me in too many ways.
But I have a friend who was affected all her days.
Violence can come in a different form.
So have people to inform.
Violence is caused by drugs.
So go out and give some hugs.
Violence is insulting.
Which is helped by consulting.
A teacher, parent, or friend is just fine.
They will always be there on time.
Violence is also beating.
So to the principal keep on retreating.
Violence can be prevent in many ways.
Join a football team and run some plays.
Join Basketball don't sit in one spot.
Go out and make a shot.

I'm Tired of the Violence (National Finalist)

By Emily Haggard

Violence-it means the abusive or unjust actions of one's speech or behavior towards another. The word basically explains itself. Of course, people's thoughts on the word are all different. I myself have personal images of abusive people.

If I remember correctly, I was six years old and I had just moved to a small town in Texas. Most of the population was Hispanic. I was the only girl there with light colored skin. You can just imagine, my first day of school I was hoping to find a friend, but my first day was not what I had in mind. Everywhere I went there was verbal violence, mostly in Spanish. My mother fluent in that language was sure to know what the words were. I remember the look on my mom's face when I asked her what they were. She asked me where I had heard them. She didn't even need me to say where, a look of gloom appeared as she told me the meanings.

But months passed and soon I made a friend, Brianna. She was nice and she had no problem that I was light skinned. She had a deformed and though and one day we were outside playing in her yard when a group of older kids came up. They started making fun of her hand and asking her if her brain was deformed along with it. Brianna tried to ignore it and so did I. Sometimes I wish I were as smart then as I am now, because I would have taken the verbal violence and then comforted Brianna afterwards. Of course I didn't I stood up and told them to leave me and her alone, and said if they kept going on I was going to get my father out there. After that, well let's just say I went home with some bruises.

Soon we moved, and then moved again, and again, and again. I hadn't forgotten what had happened the first time I got beat up. We had just moved to Montana, again on a reservation. Although I was part native, people didn't care. I was called waseege, aka white girl. It was all fine and dandy, because I had heard every name in the book in about five different languages. I got into fist fights periodically, but I was getting used to that until the day my sister came home in a torn shirt with mud splattered across her face and clothes, a bit of blood her and there along with the nail marks on her shoulders. I found out she was playing down the street on the basketball court with her friend. Boys came up and gave her a hard time about her being part white; my sister knew where this was headed. They threw her bike in the mud, and walked toward her. She picked up a rock and said "Don't come near me". Of course she has a bad throw so it missed by a long shot. They ran toward her, but all she had to say was "Just don't hurt my friend", they weren't going to hurt her friend of course, just my sister.

I felt sick; it was something we both learned the hard way. Something we both knew wouldn't change until we moved again. Which we did, and so far it hasn't been that bad. We have friends and a great school. We love it here, it's not the biggest town in the world or the best but at least we know nothing will happen.

There may be no way to stop any kind of violence, but I guess there are ways to prevent a bit of it. For instance if I would have sat and ignored the group of boys I probably won't have gotten beat up. If my sister wouldn't have thrown that rock with her bad aim and instead use her beautiful running legs she probably would have got away. But we can't go back and change the past.

We can also keep ourselves out of troubles way by not being rude and showing respect to everyone we know. It's hard to do though; it will take will power. I can't say it will always work, but it won't hurt to give it a try. If perhaps you do find yourself in a situation where people are threatening to hurt you and there is no one around, you have the right to run away. It doesn't mean that you are any less brave than you already are.

I'm writing this essay to expand my knowledge on violence; hoping someday to possibly help those in my situations. So far my advice is showing respect. It gets further than fists. Also unless you're in a situation where you close to death or your life is threatened, I suggest ignoring those who temper you.

The other day my friend asked, "Why not get back at them?" I told her that the minute we get back, we lower ourselves to their level. We would be no better than they are.

Although it's okay to ignore violence toward you, it's NOT okay to ignore violence that is being inflicted on to other people. If you see violence and do nothing about it, like stepping in, or telling an adult. You are part of the violence; it shows you don't care about it.

Though there is a lot of violence in our communities you can help by telling an adult. Maybe starting or joining a group against violence. We all have to live in this world together, so why not make it a better place to live.

By Kayla Weishaar

My aunt got beat.
A lot too
She didn't do anything
She couldn't say anything
He was stronger
A lot too
I was scared for her
What if she told him to leave
And he killed her
Its like a movie for me
Its playing over and over in my head
He made a bad image on my cousins
Now they are alcoholics
They are mean to their own mom
She didn't do anything but try to help
I answered my aunts phone one time
Trevor was drunk
Angry too
He yelled at me
Like I was nothing
I didn't mean anything to him
In his eyes
Alcohol is life
It was on Thanksgiving
He ruined my day
Trevor is in jail them moment I'm writing this
To many fights
Breaking the law to many times
Should I forget about him
Is he worth my thoughts
How many times is he going to go to
Jail before he learns his lesson
I need to picture myself in my aunts
Shoes
I really don't want to
But I need to
We need to teach woman there are
Better men
Who actually treat them right
Women don't deserve to be beat
Lets start a group!
Everyone can join
Teach woman and men not to beat
Each other

Young people need to be in this
Group
Let them learn and not suffer
Don't let them be scared for life
Let them be luckier than my aunt.

Violence
By Allison Otten

I hate when I go home and find a man that I despise
When I hear a siren and know I'm still alive
I hate when my family steals from me
One day, just one day I wish I could be free

People choose their fists over words
So the problem just becomes worse
They get angry, so angry their furious
And take it out on anything in sight
They will beat you and tear you limb from limb
If only people weren't so violent

Violence is a powerful thing
It's inside all of us hiding away
Building up just waiting to let out
People lurking around the streets
Just waiting for a victim
Someone smaller and weaker
They pull out their guns and knives
And get ready to strike
But before they do
Step in and make them stop
There are better ways to get rid of your anger

Cruel World

By Ciarra Hamilton

Cruel world of mine
Don't worry about me
I will be fine
So just let me be

Cruel world of mine
Why do we fight
Why can't we shine
Let the people see light

Cruel world of mine
Here I sit
Just thinkin of a rhyme
Just thinkin a bit

So let all the people ever were
Be aware of the violence
In this cruel world
Not of mine, or yours,
But ours

Essay “Violence”
By Destiny Fowler

When people talk of violence I thank Martin Luther King Jr. for his single words “I have a dream” which affected the course of human life. The shedded tears the drops of blood that were bled from his fragile body were for the freedom of our African American people. But today you ask me, “How has violence affected me?” Well, I don’t think violence is a passage to any problem but it seems to me that the people I love and care for me the most have been put through it. Some take it to a serious state and now are forgotten, others are hurt by other people’s mistakes and are wounded at heart. I hate the pain I see them in. I ask myself everyday how do they handle it I want to cry for them because they are to scared to let it out. I see people everyday be hurt by the ones they love and they don’t take a second look at what violence, not matter what type, might be hurting them. I know it wouldn’t be hard to shed some light on someone’s day. I also don’t think violence is an unstoppable issue. I actually think its one of the few things that can be fixed with more than a moment to spare. If we can get people to stop thinking of themselves over everyone else and keep people with a smile on their face I know that our whole world could be a better place, but it’s up to us. So, start with one smile and spread them to the world.